

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Claim Status

Claims 1-59 are cancelled. New claims 60 and 61 are presented for examination. No new matter is added by these amendments, and their entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Scalice (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,671). Applicants respectfully disagree. Solely to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Thus the rejection is moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 26, 28, 54, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olsen (WO95/00664) in view of Sobol (U.S. Patent No. 5,543,296), Gelfand (US Patent No. 5,618,703) and Scalice (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,671). Applicants respectfully disagree. Solely to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Thus the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 26, 29, 54, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Soderlund (EP 0648280 B1) in view of Sobol, Gelfand and Scalice. Applicants respectfully disagree. Solely to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Thus the rejection is moot.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8-9, 26, 28, 54, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barnes (PNAS) in view of Hoeltke (U.S. Patent No. 5,814,502), and further in

view of Sobol, Gelfand, and Scalice. Applicants respectfully disagree. Solely to expedite prosecution, however, Applicants have cancelled these claims. Thus the rejection is moot.

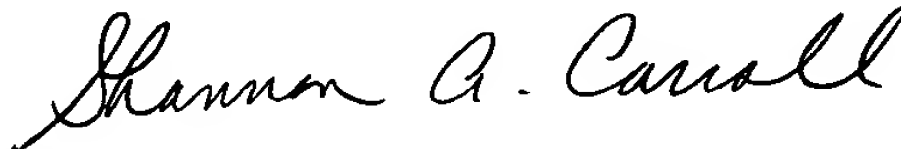
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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